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**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
**OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION**  
**WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**

January 20, 1958  
PROGRAM MEMORANDUM X-14

TO HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Operation Alert 1958

1. The purpose of "Operation Alert 1958" is to examine the readiness of the nation at local, state and national levels to meet a direct nuclear attack on the United States.

2. Objectives of the exercise are:

A. To improve national readiness by--

- (1) Local and state governments evaluating, on the basis of their own resources, their capabilities to cope with the attack situation and determining the kinds of Federal assistance needed and how such assistance would be utilized.
- (2) The Federal Government determining its capability to meet demands arising from the attack and examining the adequacy of Federal Guidance and Mobilization Plans to meet the attack situation.

B. To determine what significant preparedness measures, if taken pre-attack, would make the post-attack job more manageable.

C. To train personnel in local, state and federal governments in habits of thinking needed to cope with emergency conditions.

3. The exercise will be conducted within the scope of Mobilization Plans and Federal Guidance (Central Programming) furnished to federal, state and local agencies.

-2-

Program Memorandum X-14 (Cont'd)

January 20, 1958

4. The situation on which the exercise is to be based will be a direct nuclear attack on the United States, with tactical warning only.

5. The exercise will be conducted in three phases, as follows:

Phase One--Attack Phase:

Time--May 6-7.

Participation--State and local civil defense organizations and supporting personnel including field personnel of federal agencies, as appropriate.

Activity--State and local civil defense emergency actions, including public participation, damage reporting and assessment, and local and state survival and recovery actions. States to determine the kinds of Federal assistance needed and report any excess of resources over and above their own requirements.

Phase Two--Federal Action Phase:

Time--July 14-18.

Participation--Federal agencies (field, region and departmental).

Activity--Activation of relocation sites at field and region July 14th, and at departmental and agency headquarters July 16th. On July 14-15 field and regional activities will be conducted independently. The validity of States' needs will be examined, as well as ways and means for meeting such needs within current plans and program guidance. On July 16-18 the departmental relocation sites will be in operation and in communication with regional and field offices.

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- 3 -

Program Memorandum X-14 (Cont'd)

January 20, 1958

Phase Three -- Evaluation Phase:

Time -- September 15-16-17.

Participation--A small group, from each agency, having responsibility and authority for emergency plans and operations will be convened at the ODM relocation site along with selected regional representatives.

Activity--Examining the validity, feasibility and consistency of operational measures and the adequacy of policies and central programming guidance.

6. Guidelines, assumptions and administrative instructions for the exercise will be developed with the assistance of the Inter-Agency Planning Group.



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Director

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